

Filed for intro on 04/16/98

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 661
By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the 1997-1998 Ezell-Harding Christian School boys' basketball team on winning the TSSAA Class A state championship.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize those outstanding high school basketball programs whose remarkable athletic achievements are a source of pride for their school and community; and

WHEREAS, the 1997-1998 Ezell-Harding Christian School boys' basketball team is one such program which recently captured the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state championship; and

WHEREAS, Ezell-Harding won the regular season District 9 A title, with a rare unblemished record and finished as District 9 A Tournament runner-up; and

WHEREAS, despite strong competition, the team finished runner-up in the Region 5 A Tournament; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial substate game, they defeated number one-ranked Moore County 64-62, in their home gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, the Eagles soared to great heights in state tournament play, stopping the Chattanooga Christian Chargers 72-61, in the quarterfinals; cooling the South Fulton Red Devils 73-55, in semifinal action; and defeating the Temple Crusaders 44-42, in a closely-fought double-overtime championship battle; and

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WHEREAS, Ezell-Harding finished their season with a sterling 26-5 record, an enviable winning percentage of .840; and

WHEREAS, highly respected Head Coach Presley R. Ramsey and his assistant coach, M. Jason Piercey, have done a superb job of molding the team into championship caliber. Coach Ramsey has been selected Mid-State Division I-Class A Coach of the Year and Metro Civitan Club Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Coach Ramsey has been strongly supported by his wife, Melody, their daughter, Julianne and son Brett; and

WHEREAS, leading the team were: seniors, Gerrod Shirey, who averaged a phenomenal 28.5 points per game, second highest in the state, and 12.5 rebounds per game, also second highest in the state, and for his efforts was honored as the State Tournament Most Valuable Player, All-Region 5 A Tournament and District 9 A Most Valuable Player; Ron Sarver, who averaged 17 points and 5 assists per game, was chosen All-State Tournament and All-District 9 A; Lucas McCain, who averaged 15 points and 11 rebounds per game, and was an All-State Tournament, All-Region 5 A Tournament and All-District 9 A honoree; and Cary Graham, a member of the All-State Tournament and District 9 A teams; and

WHEREAS, other members who contributed to the team's success this season include seniors: Trent Withrow, Bret Walters, Brian Jamison, and David Trisler; juniors: Andy Polk, Steven Jenkins, and Mark Budke; and freshman: Glenn Shaw; and

WHEREAS, Ezell-Harding President Ronald L. Sarver and his wife, Shearon, have provided constant support and encouragement; and

WHEREAS, Chris Snoddy has performed his duties as team trainer with extraordinary diligence and dedication; and

WHEREAS, the cheerleaders, under the exceptional guidance of sponsor Renee' French, were: Becca McClintock, Sarah Stephenson, Tori Trumphour, Merilee Martin, Holly

Hicks, Allison Dugger, Sarah Ward, Christy Gentry, Kristin Collie, Erica Dickson, Amanda Waller, and Heather King; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we pause in our deliberations to specially recognize some of our state's best athletes on their many accomplishments; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Head Coach Presley R. Ramsey and the 1997-1998 Ezell-Harding Christian School boys' basketball team on winning the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A state championship and wish them much continued success in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appropriate copies of this resolution, duly inscribed, be prepared for presentation to the school and to each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.